



THE OATH OF ENLISTMENT

"I do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I will obey the orders of the President of the United States and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to regulations and the Uniform Code of Military Justice. So help me God."

Free Pull-out
Calendar

INSPIRED

The Old Year has gone. Let the dead past bury its own dead. The New Year has taken possession of the clock of time. All hail the duties and possibilities of the coming twelve months!

-- Edward Payson Powell

A new beginning for Iraq ...



DoD Photo

Sgt. 1st Class Otis Nunn, frequency manager, 101st Airborne Division, (Air Assault) watches a sunset on the balcony of one of Saddam's palaces in Mosul. The palace was completed in 1994 and overlooks the Tigris River.

Third Army/U.S. ARCENT/
CFLCC commanding general
Lt. Gen. David D. McKiernan

Third U.S. Army/U.S. ARCENT/CFLCC
command sergeant major
Command Sgt. Maj. John D. Sparks

Commander 13th PAD/CI chief
Maj. John Clearwater
john.clearwater@kuwait.army.mil

Managing editor
Staff Sgt. Eric Brown
eric.brown2@kuwait.army.mil

Editor
Spc. Marc Loi
marc.loi@kuwait.army.mil

Journalists
Spc. Karima L. Mares
karima.mares@kuwait.army.mil

Spc. Blake Deimund
blake.deimund@kuwait.army.mil

Camp Arifjan
Capt. Sarah Goodson
sara.goodson@kuwait.army.mil

Pfc. Blanka Stratford
blanka.stratford@kuwait.army.mil

The Desert Voice staff welcomes your
story suggestions and photos.
E-mail them to us at the above e-mail
addresses or call us at 438-6256.

Wanted

Do you know a Soldier
deserving of public
recognition?

We want to salute them
in print for their
successes and
achievements.

Please contact
Maj. Clearwater,
Ph. 438-6257

john.clearwater@kuwait.army.mil



If you are interested
in USO photos, all
photos are posted on
the NIPR under
CFLCC PAO public
folders.

Camel Tracks

"Well," snarled the drill sergeant to the miserable recruit doing push-ups.
"I suppose after you're discharged you'll just be waiting for me to die so you can spit on my grave."
"Not me," replied the recruit.
"Once I get out of the military, I'm never standing in line again."

Volume 25, Number 14

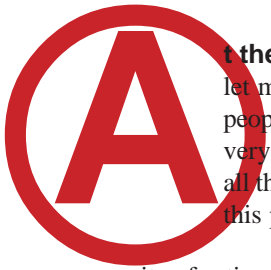
The Desert Voice is an authorized publication for members of the Department of Defense. Contents of the Desert Voice are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government or Department of the Army. The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of the Coalition Forces Land Component Command Public Affairs Office. This newspaper is published by Global Trends Co. W.L.L., a private firm, which is not affiliated with CFLCC. All copy will be edited. The Desert Voice is produced weekly by the Public Affairs Office, Camp Doha, APO AE 09304.

Cover photo

Photo illustration by 13th Public Affairs Detachment

As the year draws to an end around the world, remember -- no matter where you're deployed or stationed, your role as American servicemembers never ends.

New Year wishes from the commander of Third Army, USARCENT and CFLCC



At the door of a new year, let me say, on behalf of free people around the world, how very proud I am of you and all that you've accomplished this past year.

The security of our community of nations is being forged, in large part, from the strength of men and women like you.

The past year saw coalition forces step forward bravely into a volatile world. In one of the swiftest advances in military history, our forces charged across 350 miles of hostile ground to Baghdad, successfully tearing down a viscous tyranny. The liberation of Iraq was also a major advance in our global war on terrorism.

The successes of this past year were made possible by your courage and commitment, your willingness to face dangers for your country and for each other. In doing so, you have exemplified the highest traditions of selfless service — a belief in something greater than yourself.

We know that security cannot be gained by timid measures, and that 2004 will continue to test our commitment to a free and stable Iraq. We can have no illusions about the challenges that lie ahead. Yet ours is the road of valor and achievement.

Soon we will begin one of the largest movements of military forces since the Second World War. In the next few months over 180,000 personnel, representing seven U.S. combat divisions, and 17 countries, will begin passing

through Kuwait, either on their way to Iraq or redeploying home. The coming 'surge' of forces is a complex, globe-spanning effort designed to sustain our stability efforts in Iraq.

For many of the Soldiers arriving it will be their first time in the Middle East, or even deploying overseas, and many will be anxious about the path ahead of them. For those redeploying, they will barely be able to contain their impatience at returning home to their families. The pathways for both will be infused with energy and emotion.

Your patience, understanding, and support for these young men and women, as they pass through, will be crucial to the success of this massive movement. Your assistance towards smoothing their paths will ensure our coalition forces reach their destinations with God-speed.

I ask that you greet these fellow servicemembers as good hosts, offering your assistance whenever possible. Just as many units have proud phrases to accompany their salutes, such as, "Duty First!" or "First Team!" make every effort to voice your own support with an encouraging, "WELCOME TO KUWAIT!"

Finally, on behalf of the coalition leadership, I want each of you to know how very much all your efforts, dedication, and daily sacrifices are appreciated and valued.

I know that being so far from the comforts and joys of home and family is not easy. However, you can take comfort in knowing your fellow citizens are very proud of what



Lt. Gen. David D. McKiernan

you've accomplished, and where you stand. They keep you in their prayers.

Ours is a noble cause, worthy of our energy and commitment. As President George W. Bush has said, "The advance of freedom is the surest strategy to undermine the appeal of terror in the world. Where freedom takes hold, hatred gives way to hope."

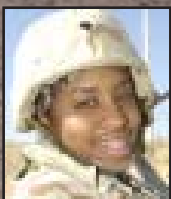
Here in Kuwait you stand in the tracks of a long line of resolute service members who came to the defense of freedom. Your efforts today, and in the coming year, contribute to the confidence and security - to the hope - of free people everywhere. Yours is one of the greatest contributions a citizen can make.

Yours are the faces of freedom.

A proud salute,
LTG David D. McKiernan



The Faces of Freedom



Spc. Tameka Pacheco
Levittoen, Pa.



Spc. Emlie Chang
Long Island, NY



Staff Sgt. Gleen Baker
Tower City, Pa.



Staff Sgt. Harry Shipman
Campville, Pa.



Spc. William Miranda
Queens, NY.



Staff Sgt. Arthur Askey
Barnsley, England



Spc. Andrienne Davis
Salt Lake City, Utah



1st Lt. Kier Scoubes
Spanish Fork, Utah

Straight talk with General Richard B. Myers, chairman, joint chiefs of staff

By Maj. John Clearwater, Cdr., 13th Public Affairs Detachment

General Myers recently visited Kuwait to spend some time talking with troops. Selected as the fifteenth Chairman of the Joint Chiefs in October 2001, he serves as the principal military advisor to the President, the Secretary of Defense, and the National Security Council. Born in Kansas City, Mo., Gen. Myers is a graduate of Kansas State University, and holds a Masters Degree in Business Administration from Auburn University. He entered the Air Force in 1965 through the Reserve Officer Training Corps program, and is a command pilot with more than 4,100 flying hours, including 600 combat hours in the F-4. He and his wife have two daughters and a son.



DOD Photo

DV: How have two large-scale victories, in Afghanistan and Iraq, benefited our forces?

Gen. Myers: 9-11 was a wake-up call, if you will, and gave a real sense of urgency to evaluating how we're structured for the 21st century. Clearly our experiences in Afghanistan and Iraq helped shape that debate. No one says that the distant future will mirror our experiences in Afghanistan or Iraq. Yet we do know that we need to change, and change quickly, to combat some of the global challenges we face, such as Al Qaeda and international terrorism. The experiences

of the past two years have helped to sharpen the capabilities and teamwork of our forces.

DV: How critical are the reserve components to the success of OIF? In what way do you see their role changing?

Gen. Myers: Our reserve forces have played a critical role in the war on terrorism since 9-11. At the height of 9-11 and our operations in Afghanistan we had over 80,000 reservists called up. That went down to around 50,000 called up, mainly for Operation Noble Eagle, which is the protection of the United States of America. Then at the height of Operation Iraq Freedom we had to call up a lot more, over 200,000, and now we're back down to around 150,000. The goal of course is to try and reduce that as much as possible, realizing of course that much of the combat support and combat service support is in the reserve component. So if we're going to take on the challenges we're taking on today, the Reserve are going to be a critical part of it. We've looked at all sorts of things that are happening now and will show up in the next year's budget, such as a rebalancing of skills between active and reserve forces, and increasing some of those skill sets that we've been traditionally chronically short of. Skills like military police and civil affairs. We're making an effort to increase those populations. But as long as we remain a nation at war, as we are right now, the reserves will play a vital role. The bottom line is, our reserve forces are doing a



Photo by Spc. Karima L. Mares

terrific job and our military could not do it without them.

DV: How key is the role of support personnel to mission success?

Gen. Myers: For the people who work in the areas of logistics and support, all support, it's important to point out that we would not have had the tremendous victories we did in Iraq or Afghanistan, without all their efforts. They ensured that we had the right stuff, at the right place, at the right time. In fact, before we had gone to war with Iraq, I realized that if we were ever asked to do it, the key was going to be logistics and support to the forces. The realization was that if we could do this logistically we would win.

Recently, we were talking to the president about the upcoming challenges with the big swap out of forces starting next month, and he said that he was confident as he'd seen how well our people had handled the movement of forces to OIF.

It shows the confidence that the President of the United States has in our logisticians and support personnel to do their job and accomplish the mission. I don't know a better testament that they could have than that.

The Faces of Freedom



Sgt. David Frye
Clayton, Ala.



Staff Sgt. Megail
Mason
Charlotte, NC



Spc. Jenny Grier
Chicago, Ill.



Kevin Carter
Waco, Texas



Maj. Terry Callis
Canyon, Texas



Jachindra
Jamantataray
India



Spc. Kecia Hendrix-
Carson
Birmingham, Ala.



Shrighi Jagprasad
India

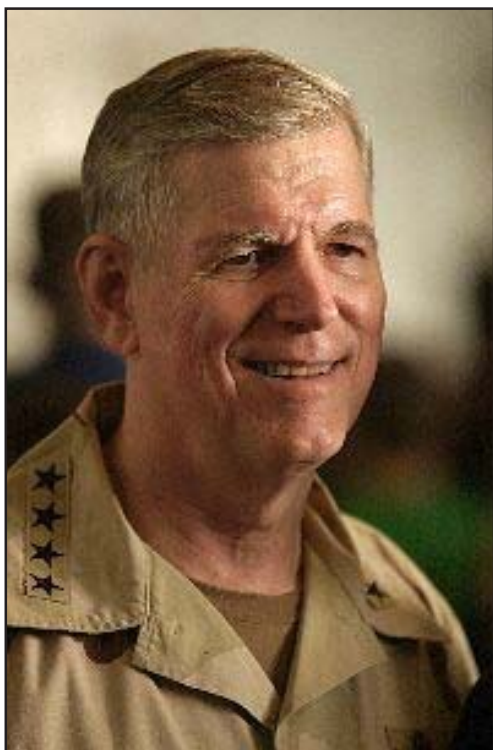
A conversation with the U.S. military's top officer on warfighting, retention and the value of serving in Kuwait

DV: How big of an impact will high optempo and yearlong deployments have on retention?

Gen. Myers: Another excellent question, and I think, frankly, it's too early to tell. For now, recruiting and retention, for both active and reserve components, are meeting their goals.

What we have to worry about is not right now, and not even next year, but downstream two or three years and what's going to be the impact on the force.

As leaders we have to look at policies, and



DOD Photo

everything we can do to ensure this all-volunteer force continues to work, despite this high optempo. So I think it's too early to make a call, but the numbers right now are good, and it says a lot, but I think we have to be realistic and keep looking downstream and try to predict where the force is headed.

DV: In your own military career you have had a number of lengthy separations, how have you and your wife dealt with deployments?

Gen. Myers: Back in the 1970s, when I was serving in Vietnam, it was very difficult to communicate. We did not have the ability to communicate like you have today. Back then, phone calls were hard to come by and were way too expensive. We used letter writing, and sending cassette tapes back and forth to stay in touch. We relied on unit family support groups and our neighbors to help out while we were away. Quite frankly, I relied on my wife who was very strong, and that was very helpful to me. These days there are a lot of mechanism out there to help service members handle separations. I would strongly urge people having any problems along these lines, to get in touch with their first sergeant or commander, or find where they can get help. Don't let it fester until it becomes a problem that no one can help them with.

DV: What is the best part of your job as Chairman of the Joint Chief of Staff?

Gen. Myers: The best part of the job is, to tell you the truth, what I'm doing right now, visiting the troops. When I'm back in Washington, the best part of the job is to work with the combatant commanders, people like Gen. Abizaid, trying to ensure they have all the resources they need to do the job, which effects people here in Kuwait. The best parts are when you can remove some bureaucratic blockade to get the job



Photo by Spc. Karima L. Mares

done, and when you can find a way to save lives, in Iraq or wherever they may be. I just like to move the ball forward and try to help folks get done what they need done, that probably gives me the most satisfaction.

DV: What would you like to tell personnel serving in OIF going in to the New Year?

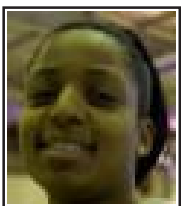
Gen. Myers: The first thing I would tell them is that there's never been a more important time to serve because this threat is so great. We are at war with terrorism, it is a deadly threat. They try to terrorize with fear, which has drastic effects on society. 9-11 had a dramatic effect on economies around the world. It's also a real threat to our way of life, not just for Americans, but for our friends and allies who cherish democracy and freedom. To those people out there trying to make decisions about whether they will continue to serve in the armed forces, I would ask that they remember that... this is your moment in history. Your nation is calling upon you to deal with a very, very serious threat. Their efforts are keeping them and their families, their children and grandchildren safe. We have no option, other than to win this, and we will win it. 🇺🇸



Richards Bierkens
Deinteloord,
Netherlands



Sgt. 1st Class Allan
Eskilden
Aalborg, Denmark



Spc. Lorraine Sharkey
Philladelphia, Pa.



Frank Kastanja
Vught, Netherlands



Sgt. Walter Loud
Stoughton, Mass.



Spc. Belinda Frazier
Brooklyn, NY.



Cpl. Nathaniel
Frazier
Brooklyn, NY.



Staff Sgt. Alison Kemke
Waukon, Iowa

January 2004



**Stryker Brigade Soldiers
take a break from training
before movement into Iraq.**

1 New Years Day	2	3	4 National Spaghetti Day	5	6	7	8
17	18	19 Martin Luther King B-Day	20	21 ○ Full Moon	22	23	24



*Ericka Dunlap,
54th Miss America,
visits Kuwait*

9 National Static Electricity Day	10 Volunteer Firemans Day	11	12	13	14	15	16 National Fig Newton Day
25	26 Australia Day	27	28	29	30	31	

Upcoming events

Camp Arifjan

Wednesday

New Year Eve's Party, 7 p.m., gym

Thursday

Bingo, 8 p.m., Community Center

New Year's Day 5K Fun Run, 7 a.m., gym

Outback Bowl, 7 p.m., Community Center

Friday

Rose Bowl, 11 a.m., Community Center

Orange Bowl, 3:30 p.m., Community Center

Basketball sign-up starts

Saturday

Country Dance, 7 p.m., Community Center

Cotton Bowl, 11 p.m., Community Center

Tostitos Bowl, 3:30 p.m., Community Center

Sunday

NFL Wildcard Playoffs, Community Center

Monday

Softball League sign-up starts

Sugar Bowl, 2:30 p.m., Community Center

Tuesday

Games Kids Play, 7 p.m., Community Center

Camp Doha

Wednesday

New Year's Eve celebration, 7 p.m., Frosty's

Thursday

NCAA Bowl Game Bonanza, Frosty's, kick-off TBD

Friday

"Stars and Stripes" Craig Morgan and Jolie Edwards, PX parking lot

Saturday

Billiard tournament, 6 p.m., Marble Palace

Sunday

NFL Wildcard Playoffs, 11 a.m. – 8 p.m.

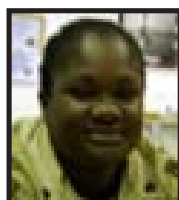
The Faces of Freedom



Spc. Thomas Craig Clayton, Ala.



Sgt. O'Terral Maze Birmingham, Ala.



Spc. Althea Cummings St. Mary, Jamaica



Pfc. Dawn Schalk Long Island, N.Y.



Julie Buist New Zealand



Staff Sgt. Deborah Wright Cleveland, Ohio



Cpl. Gaynor Woods Leichestre, U.K.



Lance Cp. Trefor Fowler Middlesbrough, U.K.

CAMP DOHA MOVIES

Wednesday

2 p.m.
5 :30 p.m.
8 p.m.

Johnny English
School of Rock
About Schmidt

Thursday

2 p.m.
5 :30 p.m.
8 p.m.

The Order
Intolerable Cruelty
Matrix Revolutions

Friday

2 p.m.
5 :30 p.m.
8 p.m.

Duplex
The Good Boy
Love Actually

Saturday

2 p.m.
5 :30 p.m.
8 p.m.

Master and Commander
Time line
Gothika

Sunday

2 p.m.
5 :30 p.m.
8 p.m.

Beyond Borders
Lost in Translation
Master and Commander

Monday

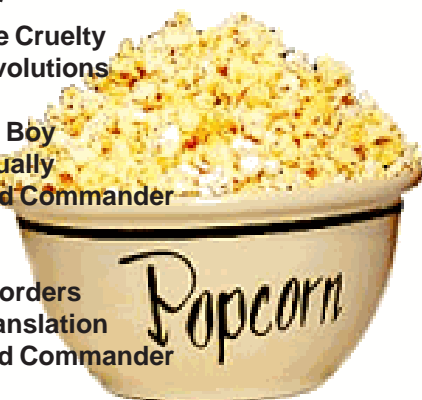
2 p.m.
5 :30 p.m.
8 p.m.

Marci X
School of Rock
Radio

Tuesday

2 p.m.
5 :30 p.m.
8 p.m.

Open Range
Intolerable Cruelty
Matrix Revolutions



CAMP ARIFJAN MOVIES

Wednesday

6 p.m.
8 p.m.

Rat Race
The Last Castle
Dogma

Thursday

6 p.m.
8 p.m.

Jay and Silent Bob Strike Back
Happy Gilmore

Friday

6 p.m.
8 p.m.

Don't Say a Word
Real Cancun

Saturday

1 p.m.
6 p.m.

Man on the Moon
Dirty Rotten Scoundrels

Sunday

6 p.m.
8 p.m.

Unfaithful
Private Parts

Monday

6 p.m.
8 p.m.

Rules of Engagement
Angel's Eyes

Tuesday

6 p.m.
8 p.m.

Slackers

Camel Tracks

Dead ahead, through the pitch-black, the captain sees a light on a collision course with his ship. He sends a signal: "Change your course ten degrees east."

"Change yours ten degrees west," comes the reply. The captain responds, "I'm a United States Navy captain! Change your course, sir!" "I'm a seaman second class," the next message reads. "Change your course, sir."

"I'm a battleship! I'm not changing course!"

"I'm a lighthouse. Your call, sir."

DESERT VISIONS

ON 'CONFIDENCE'

"You may be whatever you resolve to be."

-- Gen. "Stonewall" Jackson



'Operation Gumbo Drop' a success

Congressional delegation serves up southern-style cuisine at Camp Wolverine

Story and Photos by Staff Sgt. Eric Brown
13th Public Affairs Detachment

Sizzling Cajun shrimp, boiling gumbo, corn bread and hot sausages—just a portion of a menu dished up along with the sound of Cajun music and a Marti Gras theme Dec. 20, by congressional delegates comprised from the states of Mississippi, Maryland, Georgia, Texas and California.

To make the menu tastier was the fact the 1,000 pounds of shrimp, 900 pounds of catfish filets and 240 gallons of gumbo which made up the low-country boil and all its fixin's were financed and donated partly by the employees of Northrop Grumman, the largest employer from Rep. Gene Taylor's (D) state of Mississippi. A host of other companies and organizations from the other representative's states donated additional items for the servicemembers such as phone cards and batteries.

"What we're doing here tonight is meeting with the troops from our states," said Rep. Phil Gingerly (D-GA). "But I have to give most of

the credit for the food to Rep. Gene Taylor from Mississippi. It was his idea to bring the shrimp and catfish"

Gingerly added, "All of us brought something from our states—I brought Georgia State and University of Georgia ball caps and also brought donated school supplies for Iraqi children."

Operation Gumbo Drop's logistic and coordination was partly served up by Chief Warrant Officer Beu Raymond, Coalition Forces Land Component Command's theater food advisor.

"I coordinated everything to ensure it got served to the troops," said Raymond. "They gave us the mission and we got it done, but honestly, this is a great morale booster for the troops."

The whole idea of having representatives deliver all this food and goodies to the troops in Southwest Asia dates back to a Guardsman from the state of Mississippi who asked his mother he wished she would send him some gumbo over to Kuwait. It just so happened the word got to Rep. Taylor and he started a



Rep. Gene Taylor (D-MS) meets with servicemembers from his home state. The delegation he was part of was responsible for bringing a taste of home to Camp Wolverine Dec. 20th.



Staff Sgt. Rey Raymondo, and Army Reservist from California with the 394th Adjutant General, is served up some hot steaming seafood courtesy of some kind folks back in the states and the delegation representing the states of Maryland, California, Texas, Georgia and Mississippi.

campaign to conjure up companies from his state to donate money for the cause.

Sgt. Chris Wilkes, a 24-year old Soldier from the 1st Military Intelligence Battalion, out of Wiesbaden, Germany, was very surprised to see the excitement at the dining facility.

"I just came down from Iraq to go on R&R leave and I had no idea this was going to happen. This is the best food I have had since I arrived here last August," said Wilkes.

What made the supper even more special was the fact he is originally from the state of Georgia and was able to sit and eat with Rep. Gingerly.

"The folks from Brown and Root were great and I showed them how to cook shrimp," chuckled Taylor.

"Where we come from, we eat a lot of seafood and I know how to cook it. This event couldn't have turned out any nicer...this has been one of the most memorable Christmas' I'll ever have."



Sgt. Nathan Hickey
Rutland, Vt.



Sgt. Robert Ruger
Wiesbaden, Germany



Charles Coomes
Bismark, Ark.



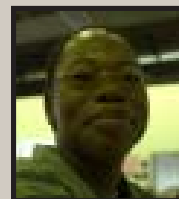
BM3 Zora Tate
McHenry, Miss.



Spc. Sean Foley
Philladelphia



Spc. Mark Van
Hooser
Auburn, Ala.



Sgt. LaShanda Williams
Ridgeville, S.C.



Spc. Mildred Batiste
Philladelphia

Kuwaiti children offer troops cheer, letters

Story and photos by
Spc. Blake Deimund
13th Public Affairs Detachment

Kuwait City-Amongst smiles and cheers, linguists and intelligence analysts from Camp Doha's Coalition Forces Land Component Command's C2, Language Coordination Cell, received holiday letters from Kuwaiti children at the Universal American School here on Dec. 17th.

"I just want you to know how much we appreciate you...and hope our friendship will remain forever."

CFLCC chose these Soldiers to receive the letters on behalf of the servicemembers serving in Iraq.

"All of the kids from UAS have written letters to all the Soldiers serving in Iraq, and they wanted Soldiers to come who



Capt. Steven Calder raises a copy of the Stars and Stripes with its leading story of the day -- former Iraqi president Saddam Hussein was captured by the 4th Infantry Division.

represent those serving in Iraq," said Master Sgt. Joseph Palmaffi, personnel non-commissioned-officer for the office of military cooperation. "The Kuwaitis are very generous people who are thankful."

The Soldiers were motivated for the event and to meet with all the children, but what they did not expect, was the welcoming of a lifetime


"It is something I will only be able to describe to people who would have been there," said Capt. Steven Calder, the officer-in-charge of the

brightly with smiles and laughter as Calder pulled out a newspaper with Saddam's face on it and yelled 'we got him.' The children knew they were now safe after seeing the former dictator behind bars.

"I just wanted all the Soldiers to feel our appreciation first hand, because they helped us and gave us back our identity," said Nora Abdul Aziz Alghanim, owner and director of UAS. Wiping a tear away, she added, "I just wanted you all to know how much we appreciate you and love you, and I hope our friendship will remain forever."

The Soldiers posed and took pictures with the children and then proudly accepted the letters on behalf of the American armed forces.

"I will personally take away a heartfelt friendship with the Kuwaiti people," said Calder.

"These letters represent the appreciation for what America, but more specifically, what Soldiers, Airman, Sailors, and Marines have done for their country." 

day's activity.

"You would have to be there to really understand the friendship and mutual appreciation between citizens of our two countries."

The Soldiers were overwhelmed by children asking for photos and autographs. The Kuwaiti children shined

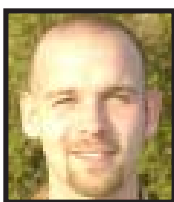


Capt. Steven Calder, CFLCC C-2, is surrounded by children from the Universal American School during his visit Dec. 17. The children gathered around Calder asking for autographs and photo opportunities.

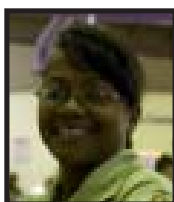
The Faces of Freedom



Lance Cpl. Si Mitchell
Mansfield, England



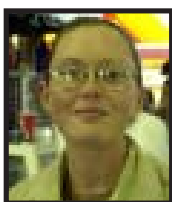
Andreas Boas
Coffsharbour, New South Wales



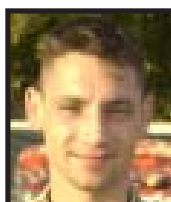
Cpt. Regina Charles
Lake Charles, La.



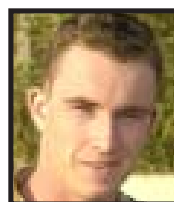
Flight Sgt. Geoffrey Lever
Townsville, Australia



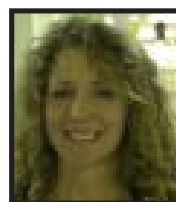
Pfc. Valeri Shade
Yreka, Calif.



Raymond von Schoonhoven
Netherlands



Jan Hollander
Doorn, Netherlands



Sgt 1st Class Camille Minogue
Shohola, Pa.

Family honors son, continues giving to servicemembers

Story by Spc. Karima L. Mares
13th Public Affairs Detachment
Photo by Marine Sgt. Colin Wyers

For many, death is believed to be a rebirth, and those left behind continue to help others in

"The day was an incredible success in many ways," Sheila said.

"Most spectacularly, the young men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces learned they weren't alone, and that there were people who cared about them, and cared that they were alone during the holidays."

For the next nine years, a crisis would arise, and every fall the troops would return.

"The second year, I switched the focus from Thanksgiving to Christmas, and Operation Thanksgiving became Operation Christmas," Sheila said.


Sheila said every year, starting in September, she and her volunteers begin searching for donations

from local businesses and private communities in Kuwait.

During this holiday season, the volunteers traveled to base camps in Kuwait to spread some holiday cheer and hand out thou-

sands of Christmas baskets to troops.

"This year we've handed out over 20,000 gifts to U.S. and British troops," said Stephanie Magehee, Operation Christmas volunteer.

"I've been here since the invasion, and I've seen what the Soldiers have done for us, we are happy to be able to help give the Soldiers Christmas when they are so far away from their homes, this is just a small token of our appreciation." 



the name of the loved one who has passed.

This is especially true for one couple.

In 1994, Sheila and Lionel Gittens lost their son, Donny, from complications with a kidney problem.

Although the couple were devastated by their son's death, they were determined not to forget him.

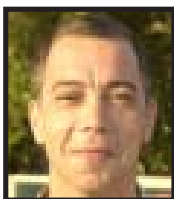
That fall, thousands of U.S. troops entered Kuwait to ensure the security of Kuwait and deter a repeat of Saddam Hussein's 1990 invasion.

The Gittens saw an opportunity to help support the servicemembers in memory of Donny and with the help of a group of expatriates in Kuwait, founded Operation Thanksgiving, organizing a traditional Thanksgiving dinner for more than 3,000 deployed troops.

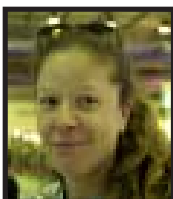
"To be able to help give the Soldiers Christmas when they are so far away from their homes, this is just a small token of our appreciation."



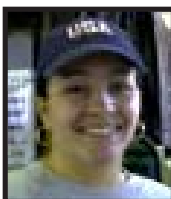
Sgt. Lewis Miller
Hayneville, Ala.



1st Lt. Christ van
Dinteren
Netherlands



Sgt. Cathern Williams
Davenport, Iowa



Sgt. 1st Class
Cynthia Chevreast
Brooklyn, N.Y.



Sgt. Maj. Renne
Karlson
Copenhagen, Denmark



Sgt. Jeannie Gardiner
Killingly, Conn.



Sgt. Christina Jeffers
Hudson, Mass.



Terry Garrison
Lott, Texas.

Money \$ense

Provided By 1st Sgt. Javier Figueroa
338th Finance Battalion

I want to share some information which will help you understand your entitlements. Let's begin with Hostile Fire Pay.

The Hostile Fire Pay (HFP) will be paid for the entire month, regardless of how long you spent in the area of operation within a given month. Current amount is \$225.00 per month, increased from \$150.00, which is retroactive to 1 October 2002.

Hazard Duty Pay (HDP-L). The Hazard Duty Pay-Location (HDP-L) for all soldiers assigned to OEF/OIF AORs may be \$50.00, \$100.00 or \$150.00 per month depending on the deployed location. Effective 1 April 2003, Kuwait and Iraq HDP-L is \$100.00 per month. HDP-L stops on the day soldiers depart the designated areas. HDP-L is prorated and paid at a daily rate for a partial month.

Family Separation Allowance (FSA). The FSA increased to \$250.00 per month (\$8.33 per day), retroactive to 1 October 2002. Must be separated from family more than 30 consecutive days before the entitlement will start. On the 31st day, FSA starts effective the day the soldier left home station. FSA stops the day prior to arrival at home station.

Basic Allowance for Subsistence (BAS). If you received Standard BAS prior to deployment, your BAS will not change for the period of deployment. If you received Rations in kind Not Available (RNA) prior to deployment, your BAS will not change for the period of deployment. If you are designated as Essential Station Messing (Meal Card Holder), your collection will stop for the period of deployment. When you return to home station, your BAS will revert back to your pre-deployment am

Your pay is exempt from Federal Income Tax (up to \$5,957.70 per month is non-taxable for calendar year 2003). Soldiers have 180 days after redeployment to file federal income taxes. Please write "OEF/OIF from (start date) to (end date)" at the top of your return and you won't pay late fee or penalty.

If you have any questions, contact any finance unit in theater or the 338th Finance Battalion, PX building, zone 1, Camp Arifjan.

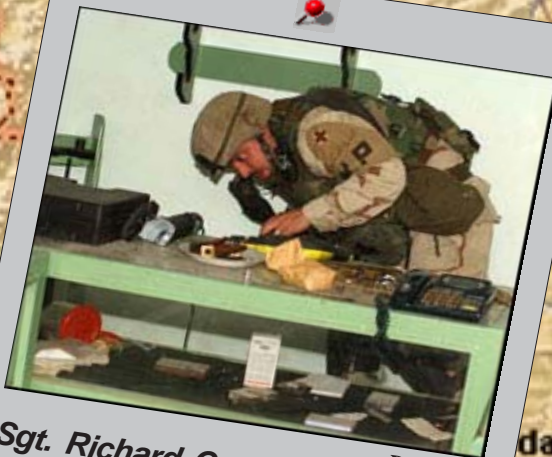
Phone 825-4163/4267 or 2712.

Operation Iraqi Freedom



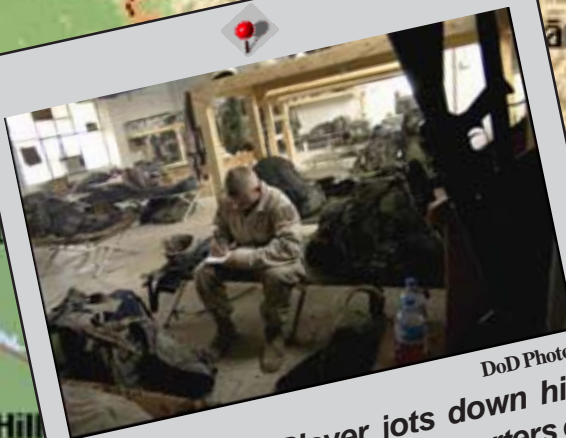
DoD photo

Lt. Col. Steven Keith, chaplain, hands out homemade cookies donated to security forces troop Airman 1st Class Joseph Murphy on duty at Baghdad International Airport.



DoD photo

Sgt. Richard Carroll searches a store in the AL-Muthana district, in Baghdad, Iraq. U.S. forces suspect that illegal weapons were sold in the establishment.



DoD Photo

Pfc. Michael Player jots down his thoughts in the sleeping quarters of a safe house in Byhassan, Iraq. Player is assigned to the 1st Infantry Division's Task Force 1-63 Armor.



DoD Photo

Pvt. Devon Rather splices a communication wire inside Kirkuk Air Base, Iraq. Rather is assigned to the 64th Military Police Company.



DOD Photo

A Soldier of the 1st Infantry Division's Task Force 1-63 Armor holds hands with an Iraqi boy he has befriended during a medical visit in Iraq.